

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 198172

71

ORIGIN INR-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 PM-04

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 /052 R

DRAFTED BY INR/RAF:DHENDERSON:KL

APPROVED BY INR/OD:MPACKMAN

INR/RAF:CTTHORNE

INR/RNA:JDAMIS

AF/W:DVKILLION

----- 075207

R 101853Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 198172

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MR, MO, AG, SS, PFOR

SUBJECT: QUESTIONS ON MAURITANIA

1. FOR FORTHCOMING INR STUDY WHICH WILL ATTEMPT TO MEASURE THE IMPACT OF SAHARAN DEVELOPMENTS ON MAURITANIA WOULD APPRECIATE THE EMBASSY'S VIEWS ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS.

2. THE PRESIDENCY. OULD DADDAH APPEARS TO HAVE CREATED MORE OF A ONE MAN STATE THAN A ONE PARTY STATE. HOW INDISPENSABLE TO THE STATE IS HE? HAS THE STRAIN OF THE SAHARAN CRISIS APPRECIABLY AFFECTED HIS HEALTH OR LONGEVITY PROSPECTS? IN THE EVENT OF A SUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT ON HIS LIFE BY POLISARIO OR OTHER OPPOSITION ELEMENTS HOW ORDERLY WOULD THE SUCCESSION BE? FROM WHAT SECTOR WOULD A SUCCESSOR BE LIKELY TO COME? WHAT DO WE KNOW OF THE ATTITUDE OF PROBABLE SUCCESSORS TOWARD SAHARAN POLICY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 198172

AND TOWARD MOROCCO AND ALGERIA? HAVE RECENT CHANGES IN

THE MINISTRIES AND THE MILITARY COMMAND STRENGTHENED THE PRESIDENT PERSONALLY OR THE REGIME IN GENERAL? IS THE PRESIDENT'S WIFE POLITICALLY SIGNIFICANT AS AN INFLUENCE ON HER HUSBAND OR AS AN INFLUENCE ON OTHERS? DOES SHE HAVE A MORE LEFTIST ORIENTATION THAN HER HUSBAND?

3. ETHNICITY. WHAT POSSIBILITY IS THERE THAT MAURITANIA WILL FRACTURE ALONG MOOR-BLACK AFRICAN LINES (OR ARABIC NON-ARABIC SPEAKING LINES) IN THE EVENT OF DISORDERLY SUCCESSION PROCESS? HAS THE SAHARAN CRISIS AFFECTED RELATIONS BETWEEN THE BLACKS AND MOORS? IS IT CORRECT TO CONSIDER THE REGUIBAT PART OF THE MOORISH COMMUNITY? (THE REGUIBAT HAVE BEEN CALLED ARAB IN APPARENT CONTRAST TO OTHER ARAB-BERBER TRIBES.) IF VIEWED AS MOORS, ARE THE REGUIBAT NEVERTHELESS CONSIDERED AN ALIENATED BRANCH OF THE FAMILY? THE EMBASSY REPORTED RUMORS THAT AT THE TIME OF THE POLISARIO RAID ON NOUAKCHOTT THE GOVERNMENT ROUNDED UP LOCAL REGUIBAT (NOUAKCHOTT 76, NO. 1394). HOW MANY REGUIBAT NORMALLY LIVE IN THE VICINITY OF THE CAPITAL? DO THEY PRESENT A SECURITY THREAT? HOW DISTINGUISHABLE ARE THEY FROM TRIBES SUCH AS THE ULAD DELIM? IS ANYTHING KNOWN OF THE ATTITUDES OF THE SO-CALLED "BLACK MOORS," (THE FORMER HARTANI) TOWARD THE SAHARAN ISSUE, TOWARD THE POLISARIO, AND TOWARD THE REGUIBAT. WHAT CONTACTS ARE THERE BETWEEN THEM AND THE NON-ARABIC SPEAKING BLACKS? ARE THERE MANY "BLACK MOORS" LIVING IN THE SOUTH?

4. MILITARY AID. WILL ARMS TRANSFERS FROM JORDAN APPRECIABLY AFFECT MAURITANIA'S ABILITY TO DEFEND ITSELF? WHAT IS THE EXTENT OF MOROCCAN AID IN MAURITANIA PROPER? IN THE MAURITANIAN ZONE OF EX-SPANISH SAHARA?

5. ARAB AID. WHAT IS THE CURRENT DOLLAR ESTIMATE OF SAUDI AND KUWAITI AID TO MAURITANIA? ROBINSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION, NATIONAL UNIFICATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE198172
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DHENDERSON:KL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760308-0362
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760867/aaaacgvs.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN INR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2004 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <01 OCT 2004 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: QUESTIONS ON MAURITANIA
TAGS: PFOR, MR, MO, AG, SS, (MOKTAR OULD DADAH)
To: NOUAKCHOTT
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006